

Adherence to Recommended Preventive Pediatric Visits Among Children with Same-Sex Parents

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Background

- An estimated 4.5% of people in the United States identify as LGBT
- There were ~650,000 same-gender couple households according to census data from 2010
- More research is needed about this population in order to address the concerns and needs of these families

Objectives

- To learn more about the welfare of children of same-sex parents
- To learn more about these families' interactions with the medical system
- To investigate any association between attendance at annual well child examinations (recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics) and the gender of children's parents
- Hypothesis: there would be no difference in attendance to annual preventive healthcare visits between same-sex and heterosexual parent couples

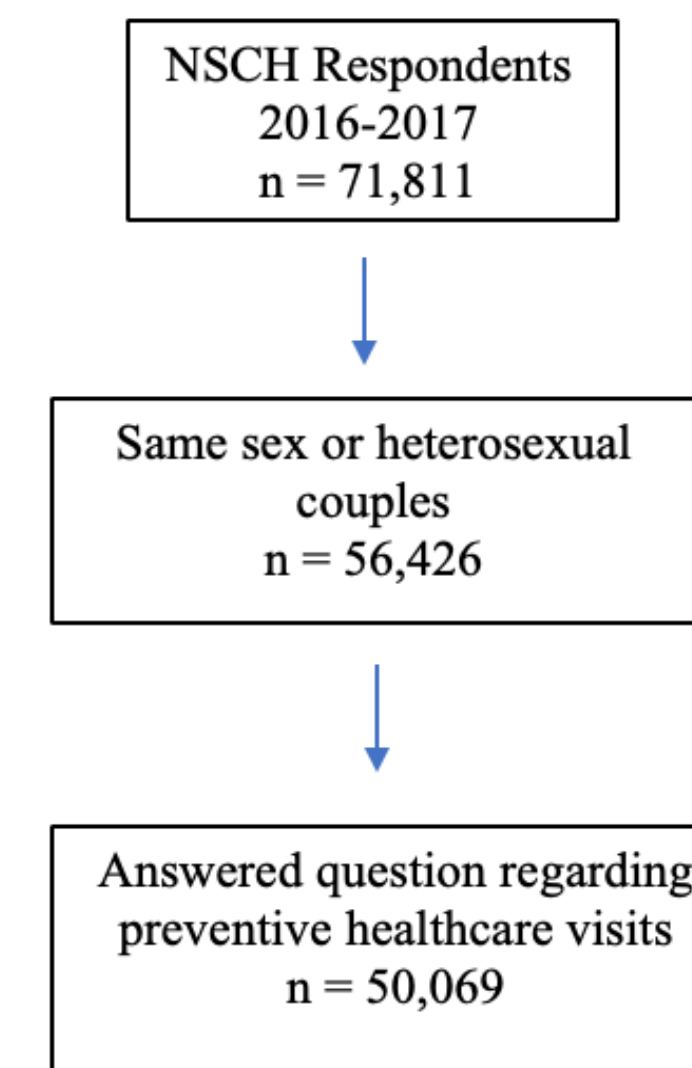
Methods

- The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)
 - A survey funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau
 - Survey conducted nationwide
 - Parent responses submitted from households with at least 1 child under 18 years old
 - 71,811 surveys compiled in the 2016-2017 NSCH
- Evaluated association between gender of parent couple and preventive health visit. Potential confounders also examined
- Multivariable logistic regression was used to obtain adjusted odds ratios

Methods, continued

- Analytic Sample included 50,069 respondents:

- Two-parent households
- Parent living with partner or married
- Respondents answered whether the child had attended at least one preventive healthcare visit in the past year



- Weighting applied to the analytic sample in order to extrapolate results to represent the entire 2016-2017 population

Results

Characteristics of US children age 0-17 and their parents by gender of parents in 2-parent households.

	Same-Sex or Heterosexual Parent Couple		
	Male-Male Parents (n=188) weighted % (n)	Female-Female Parents (n=542) weighted % (n)	Heterosexual Parents (n=55,696) weighted % (n)
Preventive Health Visit			
None	3.7% (6)	3.51 (18)	3.5% (1,894)
At least 1	96.3% (152)	96.5% (469)	96.5% (47,530)
Current Medications			
Yes	26.4% (44)	24.2% (133)	16.9% (10,403)
No	73.6% (114)	75.8% (354)	83.1% (39,021)
Child of Limited Ability			
Yes	6.21% (13)	15.4% (51)	5.31% (2741)
No	93.8% (145)	84.6% (436)	94.7% (46,683)
Adult 1 Employment			
Employed	67.9% (128)	72.4% (372)	71.1% (37,913)
Some Unemployment	29.6% (27)	27.1% (113)	28.6% (11,377)
Adult 2 Employment			
Employed	72.1% (122)	68.9% (365)	77.6% (40,519)
Some Unemployment	27.0% (34)	30.6% (119)	21.8% (8,697)
Special Healthcare Needs			
Yes	27.3% (44)	26.8% (141)	17.9% (11,074)
No	72.7% (114)	73.2% (346)	82.1% (38,350)
Child Age			
0-3 years old	22.5% (31)	31.7% (128)	24.6% (10,771)
4-17 years old	77.5% (127)	68.3% (359)	75.4% (38,653)
Child Sex			
Male	61.1% (93)	48.2% (233)	50.8% (25,366)
Female	38.9% (65)	51.8% (254)	49.2% (24,058)

Results, continued

Unadjusted and adjusted odds ratios of children's attendance at preventive health visits in the last year.

	Unadjusted OR Preventive Health Visits	Adjusted OR Preventive Health Visits
Parent Couple Gender		
Male-Male Parents	0.94 (0.29-3.11)	0.93 (0.29-3.11)
Female-Female Parents	1.00 (0.29-3.47)	0.98 (0.28-3.45)
Male-Female Parents	1.00 (ref)	1.00 (ref)
Current Medications		
Yes	1.04 (0.81-1.34)	1.43 (0.79-2.57)
No	1.00 (ref)	1.00 (ref)
Child of Limited Ability		
Yes	0.68 (0.32-1.44)	0.78 (0.39-1.55)
No	1.00 (ref)	1.00 (ref)
Adult 1 Employment		
Employed	1.29 (0.98-1.69)	1.31 (1.03-1.68)
Some Unemployment	1.00 (ref)	1.00 (ref)
Adult 2 Employment		
Employed	1.19 (0.88-1.60)	1.23 (0.92-1.65)
Some Unemployment	1.00 (ref)	1.00 (ref)
Special Healthcare Needs		
Yes	0.84 (0.60-1.18)	0.81(0.47-1.35)
No	1.00 (ref)	1.00 (ref)
Child Age		
0-3 years old	2.24 (1.57-3.21)	2.27 (1.59-3.24)
4-17 years old	1.00 (ref)	1.00 (ref)
Child Sex		
Male	1.07 (0.85-1.35)	1.07 (0.84-1.36)
Female	1.00 (ref)	1.00 (ref)

- Regardless of gender of parent couples, 96% of children attended annual preventive health visits
- Odds of attending at least 1 visit in the past year were not statistically different between the couples
- Of the confounders studied, only child age was found to be associated with attendance at annual visits

Discussion

- Children 0-3 years old have greater odds of attending annual visits, which seems in line with American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations that they have more than one visit per year
- Limitations: parents not required to self-report whether they self-identify as being in a same-sex or heterosexual relationship, adoption status of children unknown
- Future areas of study might include rates of adoption, raising medically complex children, and need for subspecialty medical care among families with same-sex versus heterosexual parents